

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BRUSSE 05147 101904Z

51

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

EB-11 AID-20 COME-00 DRC-01 /136 W

----- 053716

R 101823Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8620

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY KIGALI

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BRUSSELS 5147

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR CG BE

SUBJECT: BELGIAN PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO ZAIRE

REF: KINSHASA 7590

1. VISIT OF PRIME MINISTER LEBURTON TO ZAIRE PROVED TO BE SUBJECT OF CONTROVERSY IN BELGIUM. CATHOLIC PRESS PARTICULARLY CRITICAL OF LEBURTON FOR ALLOWING VISIT DESCRIBED INITIALLY AS PRIVATE TO BE TURNED INTO SEMI-OFFICIAL AFFAIR. CATHOLICS VIEW VISIT, ALONG WITH TRAVEL OF SOCIALIST LEADERS TO EASTERN EUROPE AND LEBURTON'S PLANNED TRIP TO IRAN AS RAISING QUESTIONS REGARDING PROPER DELIMITATION OF RESPONSIBILITIES FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AMONG PRIME MINISTER, FOREIGN MINISTER, AND PARTY LEADERS. CRITICISM ALSO LEVELLED BECAUSE FOREIGN MINISTRY WAS EFFECTIVELY LEFT OUT OF TRIP PLANNING, WHICH DONE BY PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE. EMBASSY'S CONTACTS AT FOREIGN MINISTRY INDICATE MINISTRY INDEED KEPT IN DARK RE VISIT'S RESULTS BUT LEBURTON PROMISED ON RETURN TO CONSULT ON VISIT WITH FONMIN VAN ELSLANDE.

2. WELCOME ACCORDED LEBURTON PORTRAYED HERE AS GENUINELY
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BRUSSE 05147 101904Z

ENTHUSIASTIC. LEBURTON DESCRIBED AS HAVING REACTED WITH REAL

EMOTION. PROME MINISTER WAS REPORTED AS INDICATING ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS THAT BELGIUM PREPARED TO PLAY GREATER ECONOMIC ROLE IN ZAIRE. ACCORDING TO HIS REMARKS IN INTERVIEW IN WEEKLY "SPECIAL", LEBURTON WAS ABLE TO MAKE PROGRESS IN KINSHASA ON PROBLEMS CONFRONTING SABENA OPERATIONS IN ZAIRE AND TO DISPEL CONCERNS THAT BELGIAN ELECTRIC EQUIPMENT FIRM ACEC-WESTINGHOUSE MIGHT HAVE TO DROP OUT OF PARTICIPATION IN PHASE II OF INGA HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT BECAUSE OF PROBLEMS BROUGHT ON BY DEVALUATION OF DOLLAR.

3. THEME OF "SPECIAL" INTERVIEW WAS THAT OUTLOOK GOOD FOR IMPROVED BELGIAN-ZAIRIAN RELATIONS AND THAT MISUNDERSTANDINGS COULD BE DISSIPATED IF PERMANENT FRANK DIALOGUE MAINTAINED. LEBURTON ALSO ACKNOWLEDGED "PRIVILEGE RELATIONSHIP" WITH MOBUTU DATING FROM MEETING IN LAUSANNE MENTIONED PARA 4 REFTEL. INTERVIEW TOUCHED AS WELL ON REPORTS HERE THAT MOBUTU DOES NOT LIKE BELGIAN STATE SECRETARY FOR COOPERATION PETRY BECAUSE OF HER INTEREST IN REDUCING AID TO ZAIRE THROUGH DIVERSIFICATION OF BELGIAN AID PROGRAMS. (MOBUTU'S REPORTED DISENCHANTMENT WITH PETRY CONTRIBUTES TO RUMOR THAT SHE WILL BE DROPPED SOON FROM CABINET. THESE RUMORS IN TURN HAVE SPARKED PRESS CRITICISM OF LEBURTON GOVERNMENT FOR YIELDING TO PRESSURE FROM MOBUTU). LEBURTON HANDLED QUESTION BY NOTING THAT PETRY HAD BEEN IN OFFICE ONLY A SHORT TIME, DURING WHICH INTERNAL PROBLEMS DEMANDED MUCH ATTENTION, AND THAT IMPORTANT DECISIONS ON AID HAD YET TO BE TAKEN BY GOB. FULL TEXT OF INTERVIEW BEING POUCHED DEPARTMENT AND KINSHASA.

4. BELGIAN PRESS TOUCHED ONLY IN PASSING ON LEBURTON TALK WITH RWANDAN PRESIDENT HABYARIMANA AT GISENYI. STRAUSSZ-HUPE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BRUSSE05147
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730946/aaaabhhuu.tel
Line Count: 91
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: KINSHASA 7590
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29-Aug-2001 by elyme>; APPROVED <02-Nov-2001 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BELGIAN PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO ZAIRE
TAGS: PFOR, CG, BE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005